

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

INSIDE**Over 100,000 march in D.C.
against U.S.-led war in Iraq**

—PAGE 9

VOL. 69/NO. 39 OCTOBER 10, 2005

Strikers appeal for support to other workers at Northwest

BY NELSON GONZALEZ

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—"They told us they didn't want a strike but they provoked one. Then they said they didn't want to go into bankruptcy but they did. Now they're telling us they want to avoid terminating pensions but that's what they're organizing to do. They're union busters," said Lynn Walker, one of the 4,400 mechanics, cleaners, and custodians on strike against Northwest Airlines.

Walker, a mechanic, spoke to the *Militant* September 25 as he picketed outside the Lindbergh Terminal here.

Northwest chief executive officer Douglas Steenland has now announced the company intends to dump its pension plans to save the bosses \$3.3 billion in payments from 2006 to 2008.

"The other unions on the property have to face up to this and stand up and fight, because it's not going to go away," said Russell Welch, a mechanic on picket duty at the Lindbergh Terminal.

The striking workers, members of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), have been walking

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'The Militant': same name in English and Spanish

Dear reader,

With this issue, the *Militant* is adopting the same name and masthead for its Spanish-language section: *El Militante*. It is the name this socialist newsweekly has proudly held since its founding some 77 years ago. This is a cause for celebration. It's a final step since we went bilingual in June in making

Letter to our readers

the *Militant* a single paper with a few pages in Spanish and the same articles in both languages. With this shift all readers, including those who are more comfortable in Spanish, are drawn to the paper's continuity and to how the *Militant* got its name.

The first issue of the *Militant* was dated Nov. 15, 1928. The paper has been published uninterruptedly ever since. The *Militant*'s continuity, however, goes back to October 1917, when workers and farmers in Russia stormed the heavens, took political power, and changed the world by carrying out the first successful socialist revolution. They were led by a revolutionary working-

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Miami: 500 independent truckers sign up with Teamsters

BY RUTH ROBINETT

MIAMI—"Join the union," Wilfredo González, a new Teamster member, shouted as he gave a flyer to truckers entering the Port of Miami the morning of September 26.

Daily prounion rallies are being organized at the port's entrance as part of the Teamsters effort to organize some 1,700 independent truckers in the area. A week into the organizing campaign, 500 drivers have signed with the union, according to the Teamsters.

"We are demonstrating here at the port to show we want the union," González said. "Workers need some security on wages, pensions, health care."

The Teamsters are pushing to register trucking firms and dispatch unionized owner-operators to jobs through the hiring hall they opened here September 17. Teamster organizers on the scene said the response to the hiring hall is exceeding initial expectations. So far eight companies have signed on, and they plan to send hundreds of drivers

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'Militant' readers sell 500 subs in first week of circulation drive

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON AND PAUL PEDERSON

Militant readers sold 500 subscriptions to the paper in the first 10 days of an eight-week circulation drive—one-third of the initial international goal. The response is further confirmation of what a letter to *Militant* readers published in last week's issue said: "The greater political receptivity to the paper indicates that this is the best opportunity in years to increase its long-term readership.... [It] registers a shift in the political situation in the United States."

"I'd be talking to one truck driver and another one would call me over and ask to see the paper," said Chauncey Robinson, a Young Socialist from Newark, New Jersey. She was describing an early morning visit on September 26 she and Socialist Workers Party members Steve Clark and Sara Lobman made to truck drivers and longshore workers at Port Newark.

"The trucks were lined up, waiting, which they don't get paid for," Robinson said. "We spent only about an hour and fifteen minutes at the port, but nearly every truck driver I spoke to bought at least a copy. There was a lot of interest in the organizing campaign

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FBI agents kill Puerto Rican militant

Protests in U.S., Puerto Rico denounce shooting



Federico Rodríguez

Hundreds protest September 26 at Federal Plaza in New York City against brutal killing three days earlier of Puerto Rican independence fighter Filiberto Ojeda Ríos.

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—On September 23 dozens of FBI agents carried out a raid on a farmhouse in the Puerto Rican town of Hormigueros and killed Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, a long-time figure in the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence from U.S. colonial rule.

"It was an execution squad, because the FBI never intended to arrest Ojeda Ríos but to kill him," said Antonio Camacho, a former political prisoner.

Protests began as soon as news of the assault was broadcast on the radio. The evening of September 23 there were demonstrations in Hormigueros, Mayagüez, and San Juan, where 1,000 people marched to the Federal Building. The following day hundreds staged a

picket and vigil and students from the University of Puerto Rico held a vigil.

Politicians across the spectrum here condemned the killing, from Puerto Rican governor Aníbal Acevedo Vilá of the pro-Commonwealth Popular Democratic Party to leaders of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, to pro-independence forces.

The attack took place on the date of the annual pro-independence celebration of the Grito de Lares (Cry of Lares), which marks the anniversary of the 1868 revolt in Puerto Rico against Spanish colonial rule.

FBI cops launched the raid on the afternoon of September 23. They cordoned off the area, removed people

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At St. Louis meeting, 7 unions found new labor federation

BY JACOB PERASSO

ST. LOUIS—Some 800 trade unionists met here September 27, at a one-day convention, to found the Change to Win Federation, a new U.S. labor union or-

ganization. Expanding union organizing efforts was the central theme of the gathering. It was pointed to in speeches by the seven major union presidents in attendance and in resolutions adopted

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Asarco hires scabs to bust copper strike

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

KEARNY, Arizona—As you drive into this town of 2,200 people you can't miss a big sign that reads: "Who is Asarco? The Company who wants to: Reduce Wages, Reduce Pensions, Reduce Health Care, Destroy Families, Destroy Schools, Hurt Retirees—Stay United, Union Yes!"

"Things have gotten a little tense with the hiring of some replacement workers," Ralph Minor, a haul truck driver and member of United Steelworkers Local 5252, which organizes 750 workers at the large Ray Mine complex, told the *Militant* September 24. "Morale is still

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Northwest Airlines strike

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the picket line since August 19, after rejecting the company's demand that they accept a 25 percent pay cut, a freeze in pensions, and layoffs of 50 percent of the AMFA workforce.

Two weeks after the strike began the carrier filed for bankruptcy protection and announced plans to lay off 400 pilots and 1,400 flight attendants. It is demanding \$195 million in givebacks from the flight attendants. The bosses are also now pushing to eliminate three-fourths of the AMFA members' jobs. The ramp workers already face \$107 million in giveback demands and may face additional layoffs and concession demands as well.

Northwest flight attendants, ramp workers, and pilots have continued to work during the mechanics' strike.

Strike captain Mike Klem said pickets are facing increased police harassment. "The cops have refused to allow pickets at the entrance [to the maintenance hangar] forcing them down the road and putting an airport police truck in between the pickets and the entrance," he said.

Klem said one picket was jailed for allegedly violating a spitting ordinance and two others face misdemeanor charges for calling strike-

breakers "scabs." Northwest has continued to operate during the strike using a small army of scab mechanics.

"Northwest is applying maximum pressure, but we've been defending our people and winning back some of the picket spots they have been trying to take away," Klem said. Fewer than 20 AMFA members have crossed the picket line, said Steve MacFarlane, an AMFA national officer.

Delta Airlines announced it was filing for bankruptcy the same day as Northwest. Delta CEO Gerald Grinstein said the carrier plans to eliminate 9,000 jobs, make a \$325 million cut in its pilots pay, a \$605 million pay cut for the rest of its workforce, and retire more than 80 aircraft. "Everyone is going to have to work harder for less money," Grinstein told the *Wall Street Journal* September 15.

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by the convention. Several union-organizing campaigns were given prominence in the proceedings.

Machinists reach tentative settlement with Boeing

BY BETSY FARLEY

SEATTLE, September 26—After nearly four weeks on strike, the International Association of Machinists (IAM) reached a tentative agreement with Boeing. According to the union and various press accounts, the company gave in on key issues of health care and pensions that triggered the strike of 18,400 workers.

The IAM said the company withdrew its demands to eliminate retiree medical coverage for new hires and increase medical insurance premiums between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per year. Boeing raised the pension multiplier to \$70 per year of service.

The company also backed off demands to lower wages and benefits for workers at the Wichita facility. No new wage increase is reportedly included in the proposed contract.

"The 86 percent strike vote showed the company we would stick together for two



Militant/Lisa Rottach

months, three months, whatever it took," said John Larsen, an assembler installer at the Renton, Washington, plant.

Workers vote on the tentative agreement September 29. IAM negotiators have recommended approval.

New labor federation founded in St. Louis

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by the convention. Several union-organizing campaigns were given prominence in the proceedings.

The 460 delegates to the convention came from the seven major unions that make up the new federation: International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Laborers International Union, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Farm Workers, and the garment, textile, and hotel workers union UNITE HERE. Most delegates were local officers or staffers of the unions. A few dozen rank-and-file unionists attended the gathering as guests.

The convention elected Anna Burger, secretary-treasurer of the SEIU, as chairperson of the new federation. Edgar Romney, executive vice president of UNITE HERE, was elected secretary-treasurer of the organization.

The new federation comes out of the AFL-CIO. Although the carpenters' union has not been part of that labor body for some time, all of the other unions have recently disaffiliated or say they plan to leave the AFL-CIO. Change to Win union leaders described the AFL-CIO as unresponsive to the needs of workers today and bureau-

cratic.

"Nine out of every 10 American workers are not in a union," Burger said in her opening remarks describing the state of the labor movement today. "We are growing smaller and our voices weaker." The resolutions adopted by the convention pledged to reverse this situation by making organizing the top priority of the federation. Interspersed with the presentation of each of the founding resolutions, speakers at the convention highlighted organizing struggles the affiliated unions are involved in.

Cintas laundry workers spoke, as did school bus drivers from a number of states, New York City laborers, and meat packers from Tar Heel, North Carolina.

Wal-Mart, described by SEIU president Andrew Stern as the largest employer in 25 states and leader of "the race to the bottom for American workers," was mentioned often as a target of the union movement. No specific organizing effort at the company was projected, however.

Each of the presidents of the affiliated unions pledged their support for **Continued on page 9**

THE MILITANT

Support truckers fighting for a union

Hundreds of independent truckers have joined the Teamsters after the union opened a hiring hall in Miami. The 'Militant' brings you the news and explains why the labor movement should back the struggle by owner-operators to unionize. Don't miss a single issue!



Truckers rally in Wilmington, California, in April 2004 to protest rising fuel costs.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Striking chemical workers in Canada hold firm

BY JOHN STEELE

MAITLAND, Ontario—The 350 chemical workers on strike against Invista Canada since June 4 voted recently by a margin of 83 percent to reject the latest company offer and continue their walkout. Many workers said they viewed the proposal as a move to bust their union—Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Local 28-0.

At two union meetings September 19, the more than 300 unionists present discussed the ramifications of the proposed contract and in particular the “Return to Work Protocol” demanded by the bosses. According to Local 28-0 president Steve Armstrong, a controller with 15 years on the job, the protocol states that a worker would be considered laid off if not called back within 12 days of the end of the strike, and that the contract would be set aside for 30 days so that the company can disregard seniority in calling back workers. These provisions could also result in the permanent layoff of 160 workers in the

adipic-acid operation.

“Our national union says it’s the worst back-to-work protocol they have ever seen,” Armstrong told the *Militant*. “There is basically no collective agreement for 30 days, including on seniority rights.”

Many strikers expressed their anger at the bosses and their determination to fight to defend their union.

“If we don’t have seniority we are like fish out of water,” said mechanic Rick Daub, who has worked at the plant for 31 years. “At first we went out for the junior people, now we have to turn [the offer] down for the senior people.”

“They are turning this into a 1940s sweatshop,” said Gary Witcher, who also has three decades of work at the site.

Mark Darrah, with 16 years’ seniority, took the initiative to circulate his analysis of the company offer because the bargaining committee was forced by the company to recommend approval if there was to be any offer at all. “It’s a document from hell that would set us



Militant/Natalie Doucet

Workers on strike against Invista rally August 27 in Maitland, Ontario. The unionists, on strike since June 4, rejected the latest offer by bosses with new attacks on seniority.

back 20 years,” he said. “They are declaring open season on trade unions.”

Pickets said management, bused in by security goons, has maintained a degree of production. The sprawling plant, near the town of Brockville, east of Toronto on the shores of Lake Ontario, produces industrial chemicals, including those critical to the production of nylon and plastics used by the auto assembly industry in Ontario.

The plant was until recently owned by Dupont (Canada). It is now owned by Invista, which is a subsidiary of Koch Industries. According to the union, Koch Industries is the second largest private company in the world. Many strikers refer to it as the “Wal-Mart of the chemical industry.”

In a statement reported in the *Brockville Recorder*, Invista said “it is disappointed that the union bargaining committee failed to live up to their com-

mitment,” to recommend the deal to its members, and that it “is not optimistic about a potential settlement, given these circumstances.” Mark Lichty, Invista Canada’s director of human resources, declined to say whether the company was willing to change aspects of the return-to-work protocol or whether the offer the workers rejected has been taken off the table.

Up to now the main issues in the strike have been demands by the company to extend the average workweek from 40 to 44 hours, more flexibility to contract out jobs, and the power to reopen the contract with 90 days notice in response to “unanticipated benefit costs.”

Lists of supporters of the strikers from other CEP locals and unions as well as local businesses line the walls of the picket trailer at the plant gate, indicating broad support for the fight in the area.

Arizona copper bosses hire scabs

Continued from front page
good,” he added.

Minor was referring to Asarco’s September 14 decision to begin hiring replacements at its struck facilities in Arizona and Texas. The announcement came after negotiations broke down over the union’s demand for veto power over any future buyer of the company. Strikers say they walked out over unfair labor practices by Asarco. The bosses demanded concessions, including a wage freeze, cuts to pensions and health benefits, and the extension of shifts from 8 to 12 hours without overtime pay.

On strike now for almost three months, some 1,500 copper miners maintain picket lines around the clock. Most of the strikers are members of the United Steelworkers (USW). The strike also includes members of the Operating Engineers, Teamsters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Boilermakers, and International Association of Machinists.

Since mid-September advertisements for replacement workers have appeared in the Phoenix-based *Arizona Republic* and the *Arizona Daily Star*, published in Tucson. The company claims it is running at 79 percent of pre-strike levels. The union contests the claim, saying the company built up a stockpile of copper before the strike. The reserve is now running low, the strikers said.

Asarco, the second-largest U.S. copper producer, is the main employer and source of livelihood for thousands in the region. The company filed for bankruptcy protection August 9 and has used the proceedings to stop disability pensions to 117 former employees. Many of these workers have suffered severe on-the-job injuries and can no longer work.

Out of 1,500 strikers, about 130 have crossed the picket line and returned to work. At picket lines in Kearny and Hayden, strikers are keeping track of line crossers.

There are no weekly strike benefits. The unions are working with strikers to find work, and provide financial assistance for those facing severe financial challenges. Many of the strikers have found temporary full-time work or part-time jobs to keep food on the table.

Robert Manriquez, president of USW Local 5252, said the union set up a Copper Workers Strike and Defense Fund immediately after the strike began.

Since the beginning of the walkout copper prices have risen 27 cents to \$1.81 per pound, as of September 23. Copper production is booming and demand for experienced copper miners is high. A shortage of skilled miners is a problem for the bosses.

Funds and solidarity letters can be sent to: Copper Workers Strike and Defense Fund, PO Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85237.

Pittsburgh socialist candidates visit picket lines

BY RYAN SCOTT

NATRIUM, West Virginia—Candidates of the Pittsburgh Socialist Workers Party visited the picket lines of striking PPG workers here September 17 to express solidarity with their fight against a two-tier contract (see article below).

Cynthia Jaquith, a meat packer and SWP candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, and Ryan Scott, a laid-off coal miner and candidate for Allegheny County Council, talked with the strikers about the importance of fighting company divide-and-rule tactics, like the introduction of a permanent lower pay scale for new hires.

The two candidates later crossed the Ohio River to stop by the picket shack of United Steelworkers in Hannibal, Ohio, who have been on strike at the Ormet aluminum plant since November 2004.

Several pickets there spoke angrily of the role of Republican politicians and judges who have come to the aid of the company against them. Scott and Jaquith responded that a labor party is needed based on the unions that fights in the interests of working people as an alternative to both the Democratic and Republican parties.

That morning Scott and Jay Ressler, SWP candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, brought solidarity to striking parking-lot workers organized by Teamsters Local 996 in downtown Pittsburgh. The 260 workers are defending seniority, bidding on jobs, and fighting for better wages.

The evening before Scott spoke dur-

ing an open mike session at a benefit in Pittsburgh for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. “We need to press for a massive, federally funded, public works program at union-scale wages to rebuild homes, schools, hospitals, and other facilities and infrastructure destroyed by the hurricane and flood,” Scott told the crowd. The actions of working people in the Gulf Coast who took initiatives that saved thousands of lives despite government inaction at all levels point the road to the future, he said, the road to

W. Virginia: unionists strike PPG plant

BY RYAN SCOTT

NATRIUM, West Virginia—“It is unacceptable,” said Melvin Montes, president of Local 45 of the International Chemical Workers Council of the United Food and Commercial Workers, speaking about the contract offered his local by PPG Industries. Some 470 workers struck the PPG chemical plant here September 9.

“The main sticking issue is the two-tier system,” said Montes in a telephone interview. The contract offered by PPG would create “two classes of workers, different pay, pension rates, stock options. It would split unionists into two factions. We must think of the newest members too. If we give in now, then next time around, they’ll want more.”

Colorful signs dot the road leading to the PPG plant here, the most prominent of them demanding, “No two tier!”

a self-confident, mobilized, and united working class that can take its destiny into its hands.

On September 21 Ressler participated in a program sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union at the University of Pittsburgh on the U.S. Patriot Act. Speaking from the floor, he pointed to the growing resistance of working people as the main target of laws like the Patriot Act. Ressler solicited support for the Militant Fighting Fund (see article on page 4).

Most of the pickets interviewed by this reporter were in their 40s or 50s, but each one felt strongly about not allowing the company to introduce a lower pay scale for younger workers. They were proud that all workers in the plant currently make the same wage for a given job, once their probation ends.

Picketers recommended that *Militant* reporters visit strikers at Ormet Aluminum, directly across the Ohio River. These workers have been on strike for the past 10 months. The 1,300 members of the United Steelworkers there walked out Nov. 23, 2004, after Ormet filed for bankruptcy protection, tore up its contract with the union, and demanded a freeze in pension benefits, a hike in monthly health-care premiums, and tougher work rules.

“They are a tough bunch across the river, the Steelworkers,” said Montes. “And we are with them.”

St. Louis: dozens endorse Militant Fighting Fund

BY PAUL MAILHOT

ST. LOUIS—Supporters of the fight to defeat a harassment lawsuit by coal bosses at the Co-Op mine in Utah received a warm response at the September 27 founding convention of the Change to Win labor federation here. Thirty-one trade unionists, many officers of local unions, endorsed the Militant Fighting Fund.

C.W. Mining company and its affiliated International Association of United Workers Union filed the lawsuit in September 2004 against the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA); 16 Co-Op miners in Huntington, Utah, fighting for UMWA representation at that mine; the *Militant*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, and *Deseret Morning News*, which have covered the struggle; and trade unions and others that have backed the miners. The case is in Salt Lake City federal court. The company claims all the defendants have defamed C.W. Mining by reporting on or backing the miners' struggle.

Especially supportive of the miners

and the *Militant* were union members who themselves have recently been involved in efforts to organize.

Lorena Ramos, who worked five years at the Smithfield Foods plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, endorsed. She described how she became a union organizer to address the low pay and intolerable conditions at this mammoth factory. Ramos was fired from her job, spent seven hours in the company's on-site jail for her organizing efforts, and is still involved in the struggle.

Milagro Pérez also backed the Militant Fighting Fund. Pérez works at the Smithfield plant in Denison, Iowa, which is organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). "In our case, it is the very same company," Pérez said. "But because we have a union we are not treated with the indignity Tar Heel workers face."

Two international vice-presidents of the UFCW, Gregory Hamblet, from Washington, and Wendell Young III from Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania; and Maria Elena Durazo an international vice-president of the UNITE-HERE union from Los Angeles, also endorsed the Militant Fighting Fund.

Young Socialists join Sept. 24 peace actions



Militant/Ben Joyce

WASHINGTON—Young Socialists march at the September 24 peace rally here. Over 40 people attended a YS open house at a local café after the action. A dozen youth were not YS members yet. "People are disillusioned with the current system," said Ayana Jordan, 25, a student from New York. "There's got to be something better; maybe that's socialism." YS leaders Olympia Newton and Michael Ortega encouraged everyone to help sell *Militant* subs to working people this fall.

—ARRIN HAWKINS

Before the Change to Win gathering supporters of the Militant Fighting Fund got a good response at the Jobs With Justice conference, also held here. Forty individuals endorsed during that meeting, including Eddy

Morales, the president of the United States Students Association. Johanne Desbiens, a leader of the successful UFCW organizing campaign at Walmart in Jonquiere, Quebec, endorsed too.

'Militant' readers sell 500 subs in first week of drive

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in Miami," (see front-page article). The Newark subbing team of three sold 24 copies and 3 subscriptions.

A similar team from California went to Kearny and Hayden, Arizona, last weekend to sell subscriptions to striking copper miners and other working people in the area and report on the facts about their struggle (see front-page article). "The majority of the nine subscriptions we sold were either to strikers or other unionists," reported Frank Forrestal from Los Angeles. One of the strikers who subscribed also picked up *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*.

New subscribers can purchase this pamphlet, normally \$3, for just a buck. The book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* and the two newest issues of the Marxist magazine *New International* are also discounted with a sub, at \$5 and \$25 respectively.

Militant readers from Des Moines, Iowa, went to Norfolk, Nebraska, to meet with workers at the Tyson Fresh Meats plant there. Hundreds of the 1,500 workers at that plant are from Somalia.

These workers, in their majority Muslim, have been fighting company efforts to deny them the right to take prayer breaks. "Workers told us the company has begun firing them for taking unauthorized breaks and bosses are following workers to the bathroom to make sure they aren't praying," said Mary Martin of Des Moines. "After a manager followed a woman to the bathroom and then tried to fire her, 300 workers walked off the job." The team spoke to workers at the plant during shift change and met with union officers and others. In the end, seven people subscribed and 27 bought a copy.

A special regional subbing effort aimed at linking up with the working-class resistance in the packinghouses in the Midwest will take place around the October 8–9 weekend.

More than 230 of the week's subscriptions were sold at the September 24 antiwar rallies across the United States. These included 143 in Washington, 32 in Los Angeles, 20 in Salt Lake City, 14 in Seattle, 8 in San Francisco, 6 each in Boston and Birmingham, and 2 in St. Louis.

We encourage all readers to join this campaign to sell *Militant* subs—perhaps thousands of them.

Give to SWP party-building fund

BY ANGEL LARISCY

NEWARK, New Jersey—The Socialist Workers Party has launched a 10-week party-building fund with the goal of raising \$90,000 through November 20 to help finance its work.

The fund will allow the party to respond to political developments in the working class—including the walkouts at Northwest Airlines and the effort by the Teamsters to organize truck drivers at the Port of Miami and elsewhere. It will also enable the party to maintain a professional national center in New York City and have the resources to collaborate with sister parties in other countries.

At the September 11 public meeting in New York where the fund was launched, those present contributed nearly \$5,000 and pledged another \$24,000. Organizing on a weekly basis to collect and send in funds already pledged, as well as winning new pledges and donations, is key to the success of the drive. Public meetings to raise money for the fund organized in the first half of the campaign can help to politically reach out and secure additional pledges.

Adjacent is the first chart of the fund. It reports the local quotas adopted across the United States. All

funds received by Saturday of each week will be counted for the chart. Checks or money orders should be made out to the SWP and sent in as they are collected to the party's national office at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

\$90,000 Party Building Fund Sept 11-Nov 20: Week 2 of 10

	Pledge Collected	%
Philadelphia	3,000	700 23%
Newark	4,000	390 10%
Des Moines	1,500	115 8%
Twin Cities	4,500	320 7%
Washington	3,000	200 7%
Atlanta	5,000	325 7%
Los Angeles	8,500	550 6%
Birmingham	1,700	100 6%
Boston	3,000	160 5%
Pittsburgh	3,500	120 3%
Chicago	5,000	100 2%
San Francisco	9,500	110 1%
Seattle	7,000	25 0%
Miami	1,700	0 0%
Price, UT	1,700	0 0%
Salt Lake City	700	0 0%
New York		2,311
Houston		100
Other	1,576	976 62%
TOTAL	64,876	6,602 7%
Goal/should be	90,000	18,000 20%



Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark sells *Militant* September 26 to truck driver at Port of Newark. Three *Militant* supporters sold three subs and 24 copies of the paper.

GREAT SOCIETY

Demand release of Guantánamo hunger fighters!—Last January many prisoners



Harry
Ring

launched a hunger strike demanding resolution of their hideous conditions. No charges

have been filed against them. Lawyers for the prisoners met with a federal judge who said she was looking for a way to end the strike.

Meanwhile, a prison officer at Guantánamo is busy trying to continue defending a crock of lies. The lawyers challenge the officer's wild claim that blood transfusions and forced feeding have put emaciated hunger strikers in "stable condition" in the prison hospital. This, the lawyers declare, is a total fraud.

Will we hear it from Pinocchio?—With the prospect of some of the truth about Guantánamo leaking out, Vice President Pinocchio Cheney will no doubt bluster and brazen it out from last June when he gave a statement to the French press agency that "prisoners at the detention camp in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, had everything they could possibly want and were well fed as they lived in the tropics."

Stay tuned.

'This is your home!'—Both major parties try to look like they're doing their bit to provide shelter for Katrina and Rita refugees. Not so with Arizona Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano. Apparently she would like to please some of the right-wingers from both parties.

Before the arrival of Katrina refugees in Arizona she refused to tell reporters where the shelters would be. Publicize locations, she sourly said, and

people "will start dropping things off." She added a caution: "They could be here for six months."

Not dragging the kids?—More schools in California get an F. The listing of schools in the state failing to meet federal standards ("No child left behind") grows again this year.

Lean back, etc.—"7 Airbus Jets Had Landing Gear Trouble"—News headline.

UN agency charges Iran with violating nuclear treaty

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Under enormous pressure from Washington and its allies in Europe—especially London, Paris, and Berlin—the United Nations nuclear energy agency adopted a resolution September 24 charging that Iran's nuclear program is in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The resolution states that "the history of concealment of Iran's nuclear activities" has resulted in an "absence of confidence that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes." It declares for the first time that Tehran is in "non-compliance" with provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty that require it to report its nuclear activities.

Iran's efforts to develop nuclear energy date back to the 1950s, when the country was ruled by the U.S.-backed shah. Washington supported Iran's nuclear program at that time.

A brutal dictator, the shah was overthrown in 1979 by a popular revolution

that deprived Washington of one of its firmest allies in the Mideast and Central Asia. The new Iranian government proceeded to resume nuclear development. When the program came to light, Washington accused Tehran of developing nuclear power in order to build weapons. The Iranian government has insisted all along that its program is for purposes of economic development only.

The vote at the September 24 board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was divided. Of the 35 members, 22 voted in favor of the anti-Iran resolution and 12 abstained—including the governments of Russia, China, Pakistan, South Africa, and Brazil. The representative of Venezuela was the only one to vote no on the U.S.-orchestrated measure.

Washington did not win support for inserting language into the resolution to call for immediately placing Iran's nuclear program before the UN Security Council for sanctions. Although re-

ferral is normal when a government is found in "non-compliance," the IAEA resolution did not set a date for filing a report with the Security Council.

According to the *New York Times*, to avoid referral to the Security Council, "Iran is being told to suspend all uranium enrichment activities including uranium conversion, to give up construction of a heavy-water nuclear reactor and to give agency experts access to certain research-and-development locations and documentation." The resolution also demands that Iran immediately agree to "more-intrusive nuclear inspections by the IAEA," the *Times* said.

In a statement, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said the IAEA resolution was "illegal and unacceptable."

On September 17, a week before the IAEA board decision, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke before the UN General Assembly in New York, defending Iran's "right to pursue peace-

ful nuclear energy." He charged the U.S. government with dividing the world into "light and dark countries" and seeking to impose "nuclear apartheid."

Tehran has actively campaigned among semicolonial governments to win support for its right to nuclear energy. Reuters news agency reported that 12 of 14 IAEA board members from the Non-Aligned Movement met prior to the board meeting to try to "forge a common position" in favor of resolving the Iran issue within the IAEA.

In the end, however, the governments of semicolonial nations divided over the resolution, with those in Peru, Singapore, Ghana, India, and Ecuador voting to support it. The Indian government's vote was a particular blow to Iran. New Delhi has signed a 30-year, \$50 billion agreement with Tehran to buy 7.5 million tons of natural gas annually from Iran. In the week leading up to the IAEA meeting, statements by Indian officials had opposed finding Iran in non-compliance. New Delhi voted for the IAEA resolution "after intense U.S. lobbying," said the *Washington Post*. U.S. government pressure also convinced Moscow and Beijing to abstain rather than vote no. Both states are major trading partners with Iran. In 2003, Iran supplied about 14 percent of China's oil imports. Moscow is deeply involved in the building of a \$1 billion nuclear reactor in Iran.

N. Ireland rightist thugs attack nationalists, battle with cops

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON—Frustrated at their declining role as a mainstay of British imperialist rule in Ireland, rightist thugs carried out a series of vicious assaults on nationalists. The attacks came after the government rerouted a sectarian Orange Order march away from a Catholic area in Belfast, Northern Ireland, September 10. The pro-British "loyalist" gangs also organised daily riots and protests against the police and the occupying British Army. These included machine-gun and petrol-bomb attacks in Belfast and other towns. The police and army returned fire with water canon, plastic bullets, and live rounds.

The rightists hijacked cars and set them on fire and put up roadblocks, closing major routes and a railway station. Sixty-three cops were injured. After the events the government said it no longer recognised the "cease-fire" of the rightist Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). A larger group, the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), was "suspected" of playing a leading role in the violence.

The assaults on nationalists of all generations included bomb attacks on homes, brutal beatings, and attacks on Catholic churches, leaving one worker fighting for his life and a three-year-old child with a fractured skull.

The Orange Order, established in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, existed to cement caste-like divisions among working people who are Protestant and Catholic, ensuring the second-class status of the latter.

The London *Times* said concessions

by the UK rulers to nationalists were behind the loyalist violence, pointing to the decision to disband the Royal Irish Regiment and the release from prison of Irish Republican Army (IRA) volunteer Sean Kelly. The day after his release in

July the IRA announced an end to its armed campaign against British rule. On September 26 the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning announced that the IRA had put all its weapons "beyond use."



October 10, 1980

The long-delayed trial of two former FBI officials, W. Mark Felt and Edward Miller, began in Federal District Court here on September 15.

The two are being charged by the Justice Department with illegally authorizing "black bag jobs"—break-ins—into nine New York and New Jersey residences during 1972 and 1973 under the guise of searching for members of the Weathermen. The Weathermen was a radical student group in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The prosecution of government agents by the Justice Department is an attempt to clean up the image of the FBI; to try to convince the working people of this country that such abuses are a thing of the past.

They have opted for letting some of the truth come out, so as to be able to cut short bigger disclosures about the crimes the secret police commit against the left, labor, Black, and women's organizations.



October 10, 1955

Civil war broke out again in Morocco and Algeria after the French Cabinet violated its agreement with the Moroccan nationalist movement to grant a measure of autonomy to the protectorate. At the same time more French troops protested against being sent to put down the people of North Africa.

On Sept. 29, 300 young reservists recently called up for active duty gathered at the Saint Severin Church in Paris to voice their objection to service in the French African colonies where they are being called on to crush Arab national liberation movements. Several weeks ago, 400 air force reservists, shouting "Morocco for the Moroccans," refused to entrain for North Africa.

The steady build-up of U.S.-equipped French forces in Morocco and Algeria and their use to terrorize the Arab population has made it possible for the French colons to sabotage the limited reforms promised to the Moroccan people.



October 1, 1930

During the last few months a considerable peasant movement has again appeared in certain provinces of Southern China. Not only the world press of the proletariat, but the press of its enemies as well, is filled with the echoes of this struggle. Deceived, defeated, emasculated, the Chinese revolution still shows that it is alive. Let us hope that the time when it will again lift its proletarian head is not far off.

The Stalinist press is full of communications about a "Soviet Government" established in vast provinces of China under the protection of a Red Army. Workers of various countries are excitedly greeting this news. Of course! The establishment of a Soviet government in a considerable part of China and the creation of a Chinese Red Army would mean a gigantic success for the international revolution. But we must state openly and clearly: It is not yet true.

Puerto Ricans fought for independence in WW II

Communist Party demanded Nationalists back Washington in imperialist war

The article below is the 15th and final installment of this column, "There Is No Peace: 60 Years Since End of World War II." The column presented the facts on World War II this year, which marked the 60th anniversary of its end, along with analysis on the reasons for the war and its results. The most comprehensive article on these questions was "Strengthening anti-imperialist character of Caracas world youth festival: Separating myth from reality about the causes and outcome of World War II." A listing of all the articles in the column appears below.

(Second of a two-part series)

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Last week's article described the resistance to U.S. imperialism that Puerto Rican independence fighters waged during World War II. Rejecting calls to subordinate their struggle to "unity" with the Allied imperialist powers against the Axis imperialist bloc, the *independistas* stood up to frame-ups and persecution by "democratic" Washington. The Nationalist Party, led by Pedro Albizu Campos, led a campaign against the U.S.-imposed draft. Dozens of Puerto Ricans were jailed for refusing to be cannon fodder in the army of their colonial oppressors.

Puerto Rican independence fighters pressed their battle despite charges by pro-imperialist spokespeople that they were "sabotaging" the fight against fascism. Albizu Campos and his supporters were smeared as pro-Mussolini "blackshirts" (the Cadets of the Republic, the Nationalist Party's military section, wore black shirts and white pants).

The *independistas* also had to face opposition by the Communist Party both in the United States and Puerto Rico. The Stalinists, following Moscow's "Popular Front" line of

supporting the U.S. imperialist government in the war, urged Puerto Ricans to subordinate the anticolonial struggle to the war effort.

In a 1944 book, the general secretary of the Communist Party USA, Earl Browder, warned, "Among some circles of Puerto Rican life today, there is clearly evident the rise of an intransigent and unreasoning hostility toward the United States," which, he added, "leads similarly toward tolerance and even the embracing of fascism. I have personally had to face serious symptoms of this development in my efforts to co-operate with Puerto Rican nationalist groups."

As part of that "cooperation," the CPUSA had financed the launching in 1943 of a weekly Spanish-language newspaper in New York, *Pueblos Hispanos* (Hispanic Peoples), edited by Juan Antonio Corretjer, a Nationalist Party leader who had also been recruited to the Communist Party. *Pueblos Hispanos* campaigned for support to the U.S. government "in the common struggle to smash Nazifascism." It pleaded with Washington to grant Puerto Rico independence in order to convince Puerto Ricans to back the imperialist war.

An article in the March 20, 1943, issue by Consuelo Lee Tapia, Corretjer's wife, stated, "If we Puerto Ricans do not hold grudges and are willing to enter the war as allies of the power that has enslaved us, if we ask only to receive the justice promised to the entire world in this war of liberation against Axis slavery, it is proof that the Puerto Rican people know their duty and are willing to forget the past, recognizing that not fighting against the Axis would help enslave other peoples." *Pueblos Hispanos* also ran articles praising Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista as an ally of

Washington and denouncing the United Mine Workers union in the United States for breaking the no-strike pledge imposed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, "our commander-in-chief."

The Puerto Rican Stalinists urged young Puerto Ricans to follow the example of Puerto Rican CP leader César Andreu Iglesias, who joined the U.S. Army in 1943 and served for three years. Another prominent CP member, Bernardo Vega, volunteered his services to Washington and served in the Postal Division of the Office of Censorship.

On the island, the Puerto Rican Communist Party ardently backed the imperialist war. The newspaper of the CP-led General Workers Federation (CGT), which ran photos of Joseph Stalin on its cover, called on sugar workers in February 1944 not to go on strike at a time "when our nation is waging a life-and-death struggle for the survival of democracy" and instead to support "our democratic government." It also published statements by Roosevelt appointee Rexford Tugwell, "the colony's best governor," arguing that "Puerto Rico and the United States are indissolubly linked."

CP ends support to Nationalists

The CPUSA tried to convince the Nationalist Party to back Washington, arguing that a U.S. victory would lead to Puerto Rico's independence after the war. "Albizu Campos, on the other hand, viewed U.S. imperialism as the principal enemy," writes Marisa Rosado in her well-documented biography of Albizu, *Las llamas de la aurora* (The flames of dawn).

Unable to sway the independence fighters, Rosado explains, the U.S. Communist Party "withdrew all the economic support it had been offering the Nationalist Party."

In his article "Pedro Albizu Campos: Strategies of Struggle and Strategic Struggles," historian Carlos Rodríguez-Fraticelli noted, "This precipitated a crisis and a division within the ranks of the Junta of the Nationalist Party in New York. Corretjer, who supported the political line of the CPUSA, left the Nationalist Party" along with others influenced by the Stalinists (*Puerto Rican History and Politics*, Winter 1991-92).

As Rosado details in her book, the Albizu Campos leadership decided in November 1943 to expel Corretjer, Clemente Soto Vélez, and other Stalinists from the Nationalist Party's leadership bodies.

This split led to the existence of two newspapers oriented to the pro-independence Puerto Rican community in New York—one advocating unconditional opposition to U.S. imperialism



Crowd of supporters at San Juan docks surrounds car carrying Pedro Albizu Campos on his return in December 1947 from 10 years of prison and parole in the United States.

and the other one calling for support to Washington during the war.

"The [Nationalist] Junta published its magazine *Puerto Rico*, which appeared monthly," while the CP-backed group "published the weekly *Pueblos Hispanos*, whose editor was the poet Corretjer," wrote Oscar Collazo in his book *Memorias de un patriota encarcelado* (Memories of a jailed patriot).

Collazo was then the president of the New York section of the Nationalist Party. He later became one of the five Nationalist heroes who spent a quarter century in U.S. prisons for their actions in defense of Puerto Rico's independence.

After the end of World War II, in December 1947, Albizu Campos was able to return to Puerto Rico. Receiving a tumultuous welcome on the docks of San Juan by thousands of working people and youth, he launched a new campaign of pro-independence activities on the island. And, in a break from the Popular Democratic Party of Luis Muñoz Marín, the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) was founded and began running candidates in the island's elections.

The Nationalist Party held a minority position during World War II. During the Korean War in 1950-53, however, opposition to the U.S. draft exploded in Puerto Rico, with 100,000 youth refusing to be inducted into the imperialist army. During Washington's assault on Vietnam, resistance to the draft in Puerto Rico became so massive that courts on the island were reluctant to prosecute youth for refusing the draft. Hundreds were arrested but only one was ever convicted.

Edwin Feliciano Grafals, a member of the Pro-Independence University Federation (FUPI), was given a one-year sentence in 1969 for draft evasion. In the midst of sustained antiwar protests, the judge later commuted the sentence to one hour. Feliciano pressed his appeal and the charge was dropped altogether in 1970.

"There Is No Peace: 60 Years Since End of WW II"

Article

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1943 British bombing of Hamburg killed 45,000	no. 21, May 30
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Truckers join Teamsters

Continued from front page
for jobs with these firms.

Teamsters organizers said the union plans to open a similar hiring hall in Charleston, South Carolina, one of the country's largest ports, within three weeks. The organizing drive may expand to other areas.

"I am for the union because the bosses pay us less than they should," said Jorge Sotolongo, a driver for six years. "Some of them want to sign, but they are waiting for the others. We have to be strong."

According to Teamsters officials, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) organizes 9 of the 18 major motor carriers here, covering approximately 400 drivers. The ILA works in alliance with the Teamsters.

"The law doesn't exist in Miami," said Axel Veiga, one of the drivers who organized the September 26 rally. "And the

politicians don't care either. The bosses say 'do it my way or here's the way out.' We need the voice of the Teamsters. This is the road of the future."

"We are here to fight for our rights," Angel Leua, a trucker originally from Cuba, told the *Militant* September 27. Leua has been an owner-driver since 1995. He recently signed up with the Teamsters and is out of a job. "It was very bad," he said. "We can't maintain our trucks because we're not getting enough money to take care of them. An oil change costs between \$150 and \$300. To replace a clutch, \$2,000. It costs \$300 just for the rubber part of a tire, not including labor. It costs \$80-\$100 a month to park the truck because you can't park it on the street. I use 150 gallons of gas a week at \$2.80 a gallon. We also had to pay \$175 for insurance to the company, which was stopped after



Militant/Ruth Robnett

Teamster-organized driver-operators picket Port of Miami September 26. Daily rallies seek to organize into the union the 1,700 independent truckers in the area.

our protests last year."

In the summer of 2004, independent truckers closed the Port of Miami through a walkout that lasted two weeks until a federal judge ordered them to return on the job. In recent

years, owner-operators have protested similar conditions from Florida to New Jersey and California.

Deborah Liatos and Nicole Sarmiento contributed to this article.

FBI agents kill Puerto Rican nationalist Ojeda

Continued from front page
from their houses, and cut electricity to the community. Elma Rosado Barbosa, Ojeda's wife, was arrested. She was released the next day.

Ojeda "opened the front door of his house and opened fire on the agents," said Luis Fraticelli, the top FBI official in Puerto Rico. "We went to arrest him but when the gunfire started we had to defend ourselves." He said they waited until the next day to enter the house because of concern that explosives were inside. On the afternoon of September 24 they announced Ojeda was dead.

Two days later Elma Rosado Barbosa gave a news conference contradicting the FBI's account. "Our house was surrounded. Armed men penetrated the property and assaulted our home with powerful weapons," she said. Ojeda asked her to leave the house for her safety. The U.S. cops forced her to the ground and blindfolded her.

She said she heard her husband shout he would turn himself in to a journalist, Jesús Dávila of the New York daily *El Diario*, but the cops refused.

An autopsy showed that Ojeda, who was 72 years old, received a single bullet wound to his shoulder that pierced his lung, Puerto Rican justice secretary Roberto Sánchez told the press. "If Mr. Ojeda had received immediate medical attention after being shot, he probably

would have survived," he said. In other words, the FBI agents left him to die, waiting until the next day before entering the farmhouse.

On September 26 a wake was held at the Puerto Rican Lawyers Guild, where thousands came to pay their last respects. These included leaders of the pro-independence parties and public figures from the archbishop of San Juan, Roberto González Nieves, to former governor Rafael Hernández Colón. The following day 5,000 people turned out for Ojeda's funeral in his hometown of Naguabo.

Ojeda was one of the independence fighters who became known as the Hartford 15. On Aug. 30, 1985, some 200 heavily armed FBI agents raided

the homes of independence fighters in Puerto Rico. Fifteen people were tried on charges of conspiracy to rob \$7 million from a Wells Fargo armored car in Hartford, Connecticut.

At that time, when the cops first came to arrest Ojeda Ríos shots were exchanged and an FBI agent was wounded. Ojeda, charged with assaulting a federal officer, argued that he acted in self-defense. A federal jury made up of Puerto Ricans found him not guilty.

The 15 were flown out of Puerto Rico to stand trial in Hartford. They were denied bail and locked up for more than a year; Ojeda was jailed for 32 months. During the trials it was revealed that the FBI had conducted massive wire-

tapping against the *independistas*, including hundreds of hours of taped conversations in their homes. Fifty of these tapes were thrown out as evidence because of FBI tampering.

Several of the Hartford 15 were convicted and given long sentences. As a result of an international defense campaign, some were released in 1999. Juan Segarra Palmer, sentenced to 55 years, was freed last year.

While awaiting trial, Ojeda jumped bail in 1990 and went into hiding; he was convicted in absentia to 55 years. Over the past 15 years Ojeda gave interviews to journalists and taped messages that were played at the annual Grito de Lares commemoration.

Over 50 die in hurricane evacuations in Texas

BY AMANDA ULMAN
AND JACQUIE HENDERSON

HOUSTON—More than 2.5 million residents—the vast majority working people—here and in nearby towns heeded calls by city and state authorities to evacuate the eastern Gulf Coast area of Texas as hurricane Rita approached. But to do this many had to endure massive traffic jams, compounded by cars running out of gas on the highway. Government officials did little to help those they had urgently told to leave. Evacuees helped each other to minimize problems.

According to a September 27 Associated Press report, the toll during the evacuation is now 31 deaths in Harris County alone, which includes Houston. This does not include the 23 Bellaire nursing home patients who perished in a bus explosion just outside Dallas.

The elderly evacuees died September 23 when the bus caught fire due to a mechanical failure, leading to the explosion of oxygen tanks used by patients on board. State officials immediately placed blame on the bankrupt busing company, Global Limo, and its driver for the accident. They took no responsibility for conditions in which the normally four-hour trip took 16 hours.

Deaths during the evacuation included an elderly woman who died of heat-related illness in Richmond, Texas, after being stuck in traffic. Yesenia Mathis, 17, stopped breathing and died as her

family's van was trapped in traffic on I-45 just outside of Houston. Another child in the same van had a body temperature of 108 degrees when doctors first examined her. Both children were disabled.

Major interstate and county roads resembled parking lots. Traffic backed up on I-45 from Houston to Dallas stretched about 100 miles with average speeds at three miles an hour for much of the way. Gas stations ran out of fuel along evacuation routes toward Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas.

In spite of frequent radio reports that police and military would be delivering gasoline to stranded motorists, these reporters didn't see a single police or military gas delivery and none of the promised relief stations. The *Houston Chronicle* reported that in the Woodlands, a wealthy suburb of Houston, shotgun-bearing cops were posted at filling station pumps.

Along with hundreds of other cars, we were blocked from exits by police when we sought relief and gas. At one blocked exit we saw people climbing over barricades to get to facilities, even though they had to leave their cars on the highway. We witnessed long lines where gas stations were open and heard reports of those waiting in such lines for several hours.

People often helped each other in trying to get gas, giving directions to get to rural roads, working on disabled

cars, and sometimes sharing water and food.

Jennifer Chavez, 28, made it to San Antonio at 3:00 a.m. September 23 after leaving southwest Houston at 10:00 a.m. the day before. Nine months pregnant, she along with her sister Christina and friend Armando Peña traveled in a caravan that kept in touch by cell phone and at times by walking up the highway to talk with the others stuck in traffic. Like others on the road, they turned off air conditioners, in spite of extreme heat, to save gas. Chavez said she felt labor pains several times during the trip and almost passed out at one point.

After getting a call from one of their friends who had run out of gas, they turned back, adding hours to their trip, to find some scarce overpriced gas for their friend. "They told us to leave and to take these routes," Chavez said. "They could have done the math and known we would all be stopped in traffic."

"Aren't they treating us a little like they did those people in New Orleans?" Chavez continued. "President Bush and all of them said they didn't know there were problems with the levees. But they knew and they did nothing. They didn't do anything for those people and they didn't do anything for us. They don't show us any respect."

José Aravena, Anthony Dutrow, and Tom Leonard contributed to this article.

Appeal to our readers

Over the last month, the *Militant* has spent \$6,000 to send reporting teams to Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Our reporters have provided unique coverage of working peoples' response to the catastrophe after recent hurricanes in the region. Their articles have illustrated how these social disasters have been imposed on millions by the government at all levels and its twin capitalist parties, which have acted in a class-biased and racist manner. We would like to continue providing similar coverage, but we've run out of funds. To help, send your donation now to The Militant at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

How Bolsheviks led fight against national oppression

The following selection is from notes written in December 1922 by V.I. Lenin, which is published in Lenin's Final Fight, Speeches and Writings, 1922-23, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. In it Lenin responded to the abuses by Joseph Stalin and his allies against the people of Georgia, a Soviet republic and formerly part of Russian tsarism's prisonhouse of nations. This selection is part of the record of the struggle waged by Lenin in the final months of his political life to maintain the communist course—in which the Bolshevik Party had led the workers and peasants to power in Russia



Congress of Peoples of East in Baku, Soviet Azerbaijan, September 1920. Delegates from more than two dozen peoples' of Asia discussed the fight against national oppression and imperialist domination. Lenin emphasized the importance of distinguishing between the nationalism of an oppressed nation and the reactionary nationalism of the oppressors.

BY V.I. LENIN

In my writings on the national question I have already said that an abstract presentation of the question of nationalism in general is of no use at all. A distinction must necessarily be made between the nationalism of an oppressor nation and that of an oppressed nation, the nationalism of a big nation and that of a small nation.

In respect of the second kind of nationalism we nationalists of a big nation have nearly always been guilty, in historic practice, of an infinite number of cases of violence; furthermore, we commit violence and insult an infinite number of times without noticing it. It is sufficient to recall my Volga reminiscences of how non-Russians are treated; how the Poles are not called by any other name than Poyachishka, how the Tatar is nicknamed Prince, how the Ukrainians are always Khokhols and

the Georgians and other Caucasian nationals always Kapkasiens.

That is why internationalism on the part of oppressors or "great" nations, as they are called (though they are great only in their violence, only great as bullies), must consist not only in the observance of the formal equality of nations but even in an inequality, through which the oppressor nation, the great nation, would compensate for the inequality which obtains in real life. Anybody who does not understand this has not grasped the real proletarian attitude to the national question; he is still essentially petty bourgeois in his point of view and is, therefore, sure to descend to the bourgeois point of view.

What is important for the proletarian? For the proletarian it is not only important, it is absolutely essential that he should be assured that the non-Rus-

sians place the greatest possible trust in the proletarian class struggle. What is needed to ensure this? Not merely formal equality. In one way or another, by one's attitude or by concessions, it is necessary to compensate the non-Russians for the lack of trust, for the suspicion and the insults to which the government of the "dominant" nation subjected them in the past.

I think it is unnecessary to explain this to Bolsheviks, to Communists, in greater detail. And I think that in the present instance, as far as the Georgian nation is concerned, we have a typical case in which a genuinely proletarian attitude makes profound caution, thoughtfulness, and a readiness to compromise a matter of necessity for us. The Georgian who is disdainful of this aspect of the question, or who carelessly flings about accusations of "nationalist socialism" (whereas he himself is a real and true "nationalist socialist" and even a vulgar Great Russian bully), violates, in substance, the interests of proletarian class solidarity, for nothing holds up the development and strengthening of proletarian class solidarity so much as national injustice.

"Offended" nationals are not sensitive to anything so much as to the feeling of equality and the violation of this equality, if only through negligence or jest to the violation of that equality by their proletarian comrades. That is why in this case it is better to overdo rather than underdo the concessions and leniency towards the national minorities. That is why, in this case, the fundamental interest of proletarian solidarity and consequently of the proletarian class struggle requires that we never adopt a formal attitude to the national question, but always take into account the specific attitude of the proletarian of the oppressed (or small) nation towards the oppressor (or great) nation.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

five years earlier—against a rising bureaucratic caste led by Stalin. The modern results of the subsequent Great Russian nationalist policies of the Stalin-led bureaucracy and its heirs today puts the national question sharply on the agenda in many former Soviet Republics. Copyright ©1995 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

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EDITORIAL

Prosecute FBI cops who killed Ojeda

We use our editorial space this week to publish major excerpts a statement released September 27 by Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City.

We join with thousands of people, from Puerto Rico to New York, in protesting the cold-blooded execution of Puerto Rican independence fighter Filiberto Ojeda Ríos by FBI agents. Those responsible for his death should be prosecuted and jailed, from the FBI agents who pulled the trigger to the federal officials who ordered the murderous assault.

The FBI's claim that its agents fired only in self-defense and that Ojeda died in a shootout was rapidly exposed as a lie. Dozens of heavily armed cops staked out the farmhouse where he lived, refused Ojeda's offer to turn himself in to a well-known journalist, wounded him in the chest with a single shot, and let him bleed to death until the next day. Adding insult to injury, U.S. officials chose to launch the assault on September 23, the date of the Grito de Lares (Cry of Lares) annual pro-independence celebration.

The killing of Filiberto Ojeda is part of the long history of attacks by the U.S. government on the Puerto Rican independence movement. The FBI has framed up independence fighters from Nationalist leader Pedro Albizu Campos in the 1930s to the Hartford 15 in the 1980s. Federal cops were complicit in the 1978 police executions of two young *independentistas* at Cerro Maravilla. In recent years it was revealed that the FBI put tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans on its "subversive" lists. Just last year the FBI raided the headquarters of the water workers union in San Juan

in the midst of a hard-fought strike.

This brutal history underscores that, despite being labeled a "commonwealth," Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony. The bulk of that nation's wealth goes into the coffers of the U.S. billionaire families. The fundamental decisions facing the Puerto Rican people are made not in San Juan but in Washington.

A successful struggle for Puerto Rico's independence is in the interests not only of the people of that nation but of the vast majority of the U.S. population. Working people in the United States and the Puerto Rican people have common interests and a common enemy—the wealthy U.S. ruling class, its government, and its twin parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

As long as Puerto Rico is under the U.S. colonial boot, the fighting capacity and solidarity of the working-class movement in the United States will be undermined. FBI victimization of *independentistas*, if not opposed, will embolden attacks by the political police against workers and farmers in the United States.

The police assassination of Filiberto Ojeda was designed to intimidate all those fighting for Puerto Rico's sovereignty. The result was the opposite, however. The widespread popular outrage and the protests that unfolded are a reminder that the U.S. rulers always underestimate the capacity of the Puerto Rican people to resist and stand up to Washington....

We urge unionists, farmers, students, and all democratic-minded people to join protests to demand prosecution of those responsible for the death of Ojeda.

Free all Puerto Rican political prisoners!

Independence for Puerto Rico!

Over 100,000 in D.C. march against war

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—One of the largest national peace protests since the U.S.-led war against Iraq began about two years ago took place here September 24. Participants came from all across the United States. Regional actions also took place in Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The protest was sponsored by United for Peace and Justice and Act Now to Stop War and Racism (A.N.S.W.E.R.). Organizers estimated 300,000 participated. Charles Ramsey, the city's police chief, said



Militant/Sam Manuel

Protesters march September 24 in Washington to denounce U.S.-led war in Iraq.

the number exceeded 100,000.

For Cassandra Stevens, like many other young people participating, this was her first demonstration. Stevens, 21, from nearby Fairfax, Virginia, said she was on her way to Washington's Chinatown area when she noticed all the people on the Metro. After finding they were going to the antiwar protest, she decided on the spot to join them.

Karissa Stotts, 20, was part of a group that drove 20 hours from Storm Lake, Iowa. She is also building a conference on women's rights hosted by the Feminist Majority Leadership to take place in Cleveland in November.

Many said they also came to express their anger at the government's inaction as the social disaster unfolded in New Orleans and the Gulf region in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Some carried signs that read, "Make levees, not war!"—a reference to breeches in levees that flooded 80 percent of New Orleans. "The war is the worst thing that could possibly happen now that New Orleans needs immediate attention," said Gabriel Bonnanno, a 17-year-old high school student from New York. He expressed hope that the United Nations would come into Iraq because the U.S. military is only "fueling the insurgency."

There was sustained applause for Cindy Sheehan, who staged a 26-day vigil in August along the road leading to President George Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas. Sheehan demanded to meet with Bush, who refused to do so. Thousands of opponents of the war visited the vigil, called Camp Casey, in honor of Sheehan's son who was killed in Iraq last year. Thousands more held vigils across the country in solidarity with Camp Casey.

Among the most prominent speakers were Democratic Party politician Jesse Jackson, former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark, and British Member of Parliament George Galloway. "We'll change the Congress in 2006 and take back the White House in 2008," said Jackson. Clark called on participants in the protest to work for the impeachment of Bush for "high crimes and misdemeanors." Galloway stated, "We love our troops. It is [British prime minister] Tony Blair and George Bush who hate our troops."

Most of the signs and banners at the protest focused on opposition to the Bush administration. James Atkinson, a member of the Service Employees International Union who works at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, said the union organized 11 buses from New York and some 300 members from Washington to participate in the march. He said locals of the union in New York and Washington recently merged. "All of us want the same thing, Bush out and an end to the war," Atkinson said.

Arrin Hawkins and Ryan Scott contributed to this article.

'Militant': same name in English, Spanish

Continued from front page

class party, the Bolsheviks, whose central leader was V.I. Lenin.

The *Militant*'s first editor, James P. Cannon, was a founding leader in 1919 of the Communist Party, which was forged by militant workers seeking to emulate the Russian Revolution. Cannon and other revolutionists were expelled from that party in 1928 for defending the course charted by Lenin in opposition to the policies implemented by a rising bureaucratic caste in Russia headed by Joseph Stalin. The *Militant* was central to the building of the Socialist Workers Party along this revolutionary course a decade later.

As Joseph Hansen, an SWP leader and editor of the *Militant*, put it in 1968, from the beginning the editors aimed to maintain the *Militant* as a "fighting paper integrated with the supreme task of our time—to build a combat party of the working class in the tradition of Leninism." For this reason, throughout nearly eight decades of publication, the *Militant* has not only provided accurate news and Marxist analysis of the major battles in the class struggle around the world, but has served as a voice and organizer of the communist movement and the broader working-class vanguard.

The paper's name fits its origin, continuity, and record. In a 1973 interview with James P. Cannon, Harry Ring explained how the *Militant* got its name. It was Cannon's proposal and the idea stemmed from

New labor federation

Continued from page 2

organizing efforts. Teamsters president James Hoffa said his union is committed to organizing port drivers on both coasts, among other union campaigns.

"We are hoping this new labor federation means more support for our struggles," said Milagro Pérez, a member of UFCW Local 440 in Denison, Iowa, who works at the Smithfield meat packing plant there. Pérez was working with Lorna Ramos, a worker from the Tar Heel, North Carolina, Smithfield plant, to present to the gathering information about the union struggle there. Ramos was fired by Smithfield for her union-organizing activities and is now working as a UFCW organizer at Tar Heel.

The convention was a major media event. Newspapers from around the country sent reporters to cover the founding of the new labor federation.

his relationship with Bartolomeo Vanzetti. Cannon had been the national secretary of the International Labor Defense (ILD), a nonpartisan committee initiated by the Communist Party in the mid-1920s to defend political prisoners. Defense of Nicola Sacco and Vanzetti, two anarchists framed-up by the government and executed in 1927, was a major activity of the ILD. Cannon visited them in prison several times. He described one memorable visit with Vanzetti.

"We had a long talk," Cannon said. "Vanzetti was talking about a third member of their group who had jumped, or was pushed, out of a 10-story building when government agents had him prisoner and were examining him. I remember Vanzetti saying, 'He wouldn't have jumped. He was a good militant.'

"In the old radical movement," Cannon explained, "that was an ordinary expression. That's what you say about a person who's active and giving all they've got to the movement. I proposed this name to designate what we were, and it was accepted."

Adopting this name for the Spanish section of the paper builds on this revolutionary working-class tradition. "El militante" has a similar meaning as in English, a militant worker, in addition to its connotation in Spanish of a cadre of a political organization.

In a message to readers in the May 2 *Militant* we said that the monthly magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*—the *Militant*'s sister publication in Spanish since its founding in 1977—would cease publication in June. When we went bilingual, we maintained the designation *Perspectiva Mundial* for the Spanish-language section, even though the paper had one editor and one set of editorial volunteers for both languages. The three pages in the back contain translations in Spanish of the *Militant*'s featured articles and editorials each week—not summaries of several articles published in English the previous month, as was often the case in the *PM* monthly magazine, or sometimes features that appeared only in Spanish.

Readers have recently reported that Spanish speakers often refer to the paper as *El Militante*, not *Perspectiva Mundial*, when buying copies or subscribing.

After this brief period of transition, we are happy to announce the name of the *Militant* in Spanish is now more in line with its content and continuity and with how many of its readers see it.

In solidarity,
Argiris Malapanis, Editor